

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

CHARACTERISATION OF FAMILY OWNED DAIRY FARMS IN TABULEIRO - MINAS GERAIS

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The region of Mata de Minas Gerais, where the municipality of Tabuleiro is located, presents low animal productivity. The average productivity (1,453 L ha⁻¹ year⁻¹) in Tabuleiro was above regional and state productivity, but still incipient, with 95% of farmers in family farming system. The objective of this study was to analyze the management of pastures, nutrition, reproduction, sanity and business, the good practices in milk production and evaluate their influence on the productivity of the herds of 15 families in the municipality of Tabuleiro - MG, selected in the Program Chamada Pública do Leite, in April 2016. Forms were used to collect farm data, which included the indices that led to the study. The obtained data were inserted in spreadsheets of Sphinx® software and grouped according to their frequency and category. The results showed that pasture management presents deficiencies that are evidenced by the absence of soil analysis and pasture rotation. Only 26.6% of the surveyed producers performed soil analysis and the same number stated that there was some degree of degradation in their pastures. All farmers supplied chopped elephant grass as forage. Sugarcane was the second most used forage (80%) by producers, but none added urea on it. Corn silage was adopted in 53.3% of the properties. The concentrate ration for lactating cows was offered in 73.3% of the farms. Only 33.3% of the farms adopted artificial insemination and just 40% of them presented age at first birth between 24 and 30 months of age. Just 53.3% of the properties performed systematic control of worms and ticks infestation. The average production per lactating cow was below 9 liters per day in 80% of the farms. Just 20% of the farmers did clinical mastitis detection tests daily; 13.3% tested for subclinical mastitis; and 6.3% used pre and post-solution disinfectant solution. The numbers of daily milking were 46.7% once a day and the others twice a day milking. Sanitary management was predominantly curative and precarious in the absolute majority of farms and good preventive practices of mastitis are also not properly adopted. There were no good financial and technical management of the activity, which limits the possibilities of evaluation of the real gains in productivity and also the success in family owned farms. Nutrition is restrictive to good animal performance, with low milk productivity and high age at first calving.

Keywords: dairy business, diagnosis of family farming, management of dairy cattle

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